

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are pending in this application. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 13 has been added *verbatim* to replace the now canceled claim 11.

Claims 1-6 have been allowed without the necessity of amendments. Claims 11 and 12 have been conditionally allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 7. The Examiner's indication of allowability of these claims is noted with appreciation.

Claims 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Katto, U.S. Patent No. 4,525,660 for reasons stated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 20040526). While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment of Katto '660, base claim 7 has been amended to include all limitations of the allowed claim 11 in order to render the rejection moot and to place base claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-10 in condition for allowance.

Separately, for purposes of expedition, claim 12, as conditionally allowed, has been rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of base claim 7 in order to place in condition for allowance.

Lastly, claim 11, as conditionally allowed, has been incorporated into base claim 7 and, as a result, has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. However, for purposes of completeness, claim 11 has been reinstated as new claim 13 to depend upon the now allowed independent claim 12. No fee is incurred by the addition of claim 13 since claim 13 is simply reinstated in lieu of the now canceled claim 11.

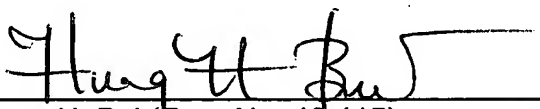
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims 1-10 and 12-13 are now deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Entry of the foregoing amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because those amendments simply respond to the issues raised in the final rejection, no new issues are raised, no further search is required, and the foregoing amendments are believed to remove the basis of the outstanding rejections and to place all claims in condition for allowance. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.41509CX1), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By


Hung H. Bui (Reg. No. 40,415)
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HHB:btd

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel.: (703) 312-6600
Fax: (703) 312-6666